



# The Washington Connection

Congresswoman **Candice Miller**

<http://candicemiller.house.gov>

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## Rep. Miller Announces Congressional Art Contest Winner

**Winner is Kirsten Haveri of Richmond High School**

U.S. Representative Candice Miller recently announced the winner of this year's Congressional Art Contest is Kirsten Haveri, a 12th grader at Richmond High School in Macomb. Her work will be displayed in the Cannon Tunnel for a year, which is a heavily trafficked entrance to the U.S. Capitol.

The prestigious competition, created in 1982, honors high school



**Rep. Miller and this year's winner Kirsten Haveri with her work "Tables and Chairs."**

students from each of the nation's 435 Congressional Districts. 28 students from Rep. Miller's district entered the contest; four counties (Macomb, St. Clair, Lapeer, and Sanilac) were represented.

The two independent judges included nationally renowned artist Jerry Power, and a St. Clair County art director, JoAnne Wilkie, who is the former director of The

Art Center in Mount Clemens.

## CANADIAN TRASH BILL PASSES HOUSE...AGAIN

*Miller Calls on the U.S. Senate to act*

Congresswoman Candice Miller applauded the passage of a bill that would effectively stop the flow of Canadian Trash over our borders. Rep. Miller is an original co-sponsor of **H.R. 518**, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007.

"The people of Michigan have had enough Canadian trash," Rep. Miller said. "They have had enough of trucks filled with trash clogging up our border

crossings, posing dangers on our roadways and filling our landfills.

"The people of Michigan do not need unenforceable deals, they need the force of law to stop the flow of foreign trash, and this legislation would give them that ability," Rep. Miller continued.

"Today's action marks the second time in eight months the House has passed this measure, yet the U.S. Senate has yet to take action. It is high time the

Senate gets to work and give Michigan the tools they need to stop the flow of trash. The Michigan legislature has acted, the United States House of Representatives has acted and now the Senate must step up and get the job done."

The bill will now go to the Senate for consideration.

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## Rep. Miller pays a visit to the Yale VA Outpatient Clinic

Representative Miller was pleased to announce she paid a visit to the Yale VA Outpatient Clinic to observe and assess the conditions and health care provided to the 3,300 thumb-area veterans receiving treatment there. She was able to meet with the director of the clinic, as well as physicians, administrators, and veterans themselves.

Her visit was planned in the wake of the recently uncovered shortcomings in health care for our service-members and veterans at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., which she was deeply concerned by.

"I made it a priority to visit Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C. when it was first revealed that our veterans were not receiving the health care they deserve, and I am pleased I had the opportunity to observe the care being provided to our local veterans here in Michigan," Rep.

Miller said. "I am extremely proud to report that veterans in the thumb area are receiving world class care."

"While we must do everything we can to ensure that the problems at Walter Reed Hospital never occur again, we must also realize that these issues are not reflective of the care being provided throughout the entire veterans' health care system. The physicians I met with in Yale were both caring and capable, and veterans themselves told me that they were getting the treatment they needed in a good, clean facility. The Yale VA clinic sets a fine example that all veterans health facilities should strive for."

The Yale VA Outpatient Clinic is a satellite of the John D. Dingell VA Medical



*Congresswoman Miller discusses veterans health care with Dr. Scott McPhillimy, Medical Director and physician at the Yale VA Outpatient Clinic.*

Center based in Detroit. The center and its satellites serve 330,994 veterans in the region.

## Rep. Miller signs onto bill to help Coast Guard crack down on illegal alien smuggling

Congresswoman Candice Miller recently announced she has co-sponsored a bill to give the U.S. Coast Guard greater authority to apprehend and prosecute those attempting to smuggle illegal aliens into the United States by sea.

The bill, H.R. 1811, known as the Maritime Law Enforcement Improvement Act, would make alien smuggling or the attempt to smuggle aliens a felony offense under federal law; currently alien smuggling is only a felony offense if the smuggler seeks

commercial advantage, financial gain, or is seeking to harm an individual.

The bill also significantly enhances the capabilities of the Coast Guard to apprehend and prosecute alien smugglers by giving the agency extraterritorial jurisdiction outside of U.S. waters to gather evidence and conduct investigations.

"This bill provides the Coast Guard with the tools they need to protect our borders and prosecute those who break our laws to the fullest extent,"

Rep. Miller said. "Michigan's liquid border with Canada makes it especially vulnerable to being the point of entry of choice for smugglers of illegal aliens, and this poses a grave security threat to our state and the rest of the nation. While the Coast Guard already does a tremendous job protecting our borders, this bill will provide a significant boost to their efforts to crack down on smuggling and better secure our northern border."

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## Article: Miller encourages state's strengths

### Rep. Miller Addresses Economic Club of Lapeer

by **SUSAN YOUNGER**

Lapeer County Press staff reporter

**U**.S. Congresswoman Candice Miller offered plans to boost Michigan's sagging economy with the state's strengths at the Economic Club of Lapeer County luncheon Friday.

"We have fantastic strengths," Miller said. "Perhaps we're not using them as we should."

Tenth District Congresswoman Miller, R-Harrison Township, was the featured speaker addressing club members and guests at the noon meeting held at the Lapeer Country Club in Elba Township.

One of Michigan's greatest strengths is its water, Miller said.

"The Great Lakes account for 20% of the fresh water supply on the entire planet," Miller said. "Water will be the issue globally. You can live without oil, but you can't live without fresh water."

Miller mentioned Michigan's rich agricultural history as a power to build on and create alternative fuel sources.

"Agriculture is the second leading industry in Michigan," Miller said. "Before you had a lot of people who moved off the farm and sold their land. That trend is changing. Now you see younger people looking into agriculture because of the alternative fuels."

The state has talented engineers trained to work in the domestic auto industry who could provide research and development to create engines for alternative fuels, said Miller.

Miller added she fought for her positions on the House Armed Services Committee and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. She hopes to revive Michigan's defense industry and bring more road dollars into the state.

"There is no reason every defense contract has to go to places like Texas and Virginia," Miller said. "We are dead last of the states for defense contracts."

Prior to the luncheon, Miller met with County Press editors, echoing many of the same themes she shared with the county's business leaders. In her discussion with The County Press, Miller encouraged



**Rep. Miller speaks to the Economic Club of Lapeer on Friday to discuss issues in Washington D.C. that are affecting Lapeer and Michigan.**

Lapeer County to continue efforts to lure industrial firms while also encouraging the county to promote its significant agricultural presence in the area of new technologies.

Miller's visit, sponsored by The County Press, was the third in a series of six speakers at the luncheons held each year by the Economic Club of Lapeer County. Other featured speakers later this year will be Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon, and BorgWarner Chairman and CEO Tim Manganello.

## Article: Guard brigade may get armor; Miller calls for equipping unit based in Michigan and Ohio; she also wants Predator drones for Selfridge

By Gordon Trowbridge  
**Detroit News**

**U**.S. Rep. Candice Miller will propose equipping a National Guard brigade with the Army's newest armored vehicle and splitting the unit between Michigan and Ohio.

Miller, R-Harrison Township, met with Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, the nation's top National Guard officer, to pitch the plan last week.

Blum raised no military objections, she said, and she'll now propose the idea to members of Congress from Michigan and Ohio in hopes of building enough political support for the plan.

Miller also wants the Air National Guard

to base unmanned aircraft, such as the Air Force's Predator drone, at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, which is in her district. That move would elevate Selfridge's profile and military value.

But the Army Guard proposal likely would have the biggest impact on Michigan units. Miller wants the two states to have a Stryker brigade combat team -- a unit of about 3,500 combat troops equipped with the Stryker, an eight-wheeled armored personnel carrier that has seen its first combat in Iraq.

Pennsylvania is the only state with a Stryker unit in its National Guard. And while the Army has not proposed additional Strykers for the Guard, the idea has gained favor with defense analysts: Experts from the Heritage Foundation and the Lexington

Institute, two influential think-tanks, have suggested in separate reports that the lightweight, wheeled Stryker is the perfect match for the Guard's dual responsibilities of natural-disaster response and overseas combat.

A Guard booster group, the National Guard Association of the United States, has proposed two additional Stryker brigades for the Guard.

The Stryker has ties to Michigan and Ohio: It is made by Warren-based General Dynamics Land Systems. Much of the research and development on the vehicles is done in Metro Detroit; much of the construction takes place in Lima, Ohio.

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## Washington Connection Weekly



### This Month's Radio Addresses:

4/12—Saying **NO** to Mexican Trucking  
4/19—Protecting Veterans Health Care  
4/26—Cracking Down on Alien Smuggling  
5/3—Opposing the Korea Free Trade Agreement



## Rep. Miller speaks to Congress, urges them to join fight to end Canadian Trash

**Watch a video of her speech at <http://candicemiller.house.gov>**

**M**r. Speaker, my home state of Michigan shares a long liquid border with the nation of Canada.

And we have a very strong and positive relationship with our neighbors to the north.

But one issue that has festered in recent years is the fact that Canadians have made Michigan a dumping ground for their trash.

In fact, all of the municipal waste from the city of Toronto is carried across the border and dumped in my home state.

I don't find this to be very 'neighborly'.

Mr. Speaker, if you come to the Blue Water Bridge in St. Clair County, you can literally see these trucks lined up to enter our country, just brimming with trash.

They are congesting the roads and clogging this very vital border crossing. They are tearing up our highways and threatening the safety of our drivers.

Pine Tree Acres, one of the largest landfills in Michigan, is in my district in Lenox Township. Every day its mountain of trash grows higher and higher.

Most Michigan communities planned prudently to meet the needs of their citizens, but now with the influx of foreign trash, landfills across the state are overflowing.

And much of this trash is actually illegal to dump in Michigan, as it presents enormous health and safety hazards to residents. Some trucks have even been found to be ferrying illegal drugs into our communities.

To give you just one example of the kind of dangerous trash being imported, just last year a Canadian truck spilled human waste all along a highway in my state.

This is simply unacceptable.

Now, Canada has a reputation of being environmentally conscious, but it seems they are employing something of a double standard.

They find it perfectly acceptable to use America as their own personal garbage can for their hazardous waste, but God forbid they pollute their own environment and endanger their own citizens with this trash!

The people of Michigan have had enough, but presently they have no ability to stop the flow of foreign trash.

This legislation gives them that ability.

I urge all of my colleagues to stand with the people of Michigan and every community in our nation to give them the ability to protect our environment and control the flow of foreign trash into our landfills by supporting this legislation.